

## **Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 19, 2013**

**5:15 pm, Washington Street Conference Room**

**Present:** Ray Andresen (chair), Pete Brown, Casey Heard, Ed Libby, Brian Robinson, Beth Ward. Excused: Pete Conover, David Olivas. Guest: Rick Knowlton (RMRA).

Ray Andresen opened the meeting at 5:20 pm.

**Minutes:** The May 22, 2013 minutes were amended as follows: under Financial Reports, the pump on the groomer “needs to be replaced” was changed to “was replaced”; and under New Business, the missing date for the Beer and Wine Challenge was filled in as May 11. Pete Brown moved that the amended minutes be accepted, Ed Libby seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Ragged Mountain Redevelopment:** Rick Knowlton, co-chair of the Ragged Mountain Redevelopment Committee, reported that the current Select Board is committed to moving forward with a November vote on the \$2 million bond referendum for the project. He acknowledged that the summary plan needs to be rewritten or condensed for an “easier read,” and that the wording on the bond vote will be critical to its passage. Among key elements to be addressed publicly before November are (1) the project’s expected economic impact on Camden, (2) how to alleviate the concerns of Hosmer Pond neighbors regarding more lights, traffic and summertime use of the new Snow Bowl Lodge, and (3) the proposed process and timing of improvements once the bond is approved.

**National Toboggan Championships:** Beth Ward reported that the Toboggan Committee began discussing the idea of a “Children’s Chute” or official sledding area for kids attending the championships and to use when the existing tubing hill is eliminated as part of the Snow Bowl redevelopment. The Park-Rec Committee expressed its concerns about the future lack of a tubing hill and hopes funds can be found quickly for a new tubing hill on the other side of the new lodge. Beth added that the Toboggan Committee needs more volunteers.

**Pathways:** No report.

**Public Landing/Riverwalk:** Ray reported that the work group met with the T.Y. Lin consultants in late May, and reviewed ideas, comments and issues raised at the two public meetings. The consultants will show their preliminary plans at another public meeting on June 24.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Snow Bowl Budget:** Beth reported that the latest report for the Snow Bowl is showing an \$11,000 loss for the year, but with some adjustments for uncollected balances and an erroneous entry on kitchen sales, the final result should be about \$1,000 in the black by month-end. Beth will be presenting the 2013/14 Budget to the Select Board for approval next week. There are no rate changes planned in that budget, but Beth is hoping to add another Ski Patroller to the payroll.

**Park-Rec Budget:** Beth reported that the Department will finish the year about \$2,500 under budget. Personnel costs were slightly over budget, as were expenses for the summer rec program (due to adding a fifth day) and for grounds maintenance (see Sports Field below).

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Park-Rec Director:** Ray reported that 68 resumes have been received for the open position of Parks and Recreation Director and that Town Manager Pat Finnigan is putting together a Selection Committee to review applications and interview candidates. Ray has told Pat that at least one member of the Park-Rec Committee should be included on that Selection Committee.

**Sports Field:** Beth distributed sports field usage charts showing time blocks allocated to various groups last year and proposed an annual usage fee of \$5 per registered player for each group reserving field time. This could raise about \$2,500 for ongoing field improvements and maintenance. The Committee likes the idea and will continue to review this proposed usage fee. Ray also distributed a revised letter to sports field users regarding this year's field repairs and asking each group to consider making a donation to help offset the repair costs. It was suggested that Ray amend the letter to acknowledge receipt of a donation from the Adult Softball League, and then send it on behalf of the Park-Rec Committee.

**Park-Rec Tour:** Ed Libby announced that our site tour will be on Wednesday, July 17 and that we should meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Fire Station parking lot.

**Park-Rec Signs:** Beth reported that new signs for Bay Road Overlook, the Mount Battie Trail Entrance on Megunticook Street, and the Maiden Cliff Trail Entrance on Route 52 are finished and ready to be installed. She also reported that someone has removed the "No Parking" signs at the Bog Bridge Landing Ramp.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Committee Appointments:** Ray reminded committee members Brian Robinson, Casey Heard, Pete Conover and Pete Brown that their term is due to expire and they need to notify the Town Office if they wish to remain on the Committee.

**Upcoming Events:** The Ragged Mountain Run-Around will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>; the Megunticook Canoe Race will be held on June 30<sup>th</sup>; the Wednesday-in-the-Park summer programs will begin on July 3<sup>rd</sup>; and the circus will be returning to the Snow Bowl on July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ed Libby moved to adjourn, Pete Brown seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0 at 7:05 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 10, 2013 at 5:15pm in the WSCR.

*Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen*